

FISCAL NOTE

SB 2156 - HB 2487

January 28, 2002

SUMMARY OF BILL:

1. Directs the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC), in consultation with the State Board of Education, to complete an analysis of the effectiveness of teacher education programs in instruction of reading and writing at teacher training institutions in this state and to report its findings on or before July 1, 2003 to the Senate and House Education Committees.
2. Directs THEC, in consultation with the State Board of Education and the Department of Education, to complete an evaluation of the need for a literacy center housed at an institution of higher education that would develop literacy resources and an internet web site to inform educators of the developments in literacy and reading teaching.
3. Directs the Department of Education to develop a plan for training reading coaches. The plan shall identify resources needed for its implementation.
4. Directs the Commissioner of Education to have completed a substantive program evaluation of the implementation of the parent involvement programs *Parents as Reading Partners* and *Smart from the Start* by March 15, 2003, and to report on the evaluation to the Senate and House Education Committees.
5. Requires the Department of Education to evaluate the effectiveness of technology for classroom use and professional development.
6. Requires the Office of Education Accountability to annually evaluate the reading initiatives of the Department of Education, the State Board of Education, and THEC and to report to the Senate and House Education committees by January 30.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - Not Significant

Assumes any cost associated with the analysis, evaluation and reporting requirements set out by the provisions of this bill will be not significant and can be handled within existing resources.

Note: The Department of Education is currently in the process of implementing the recently awarded Reading Excellence Act (REA) grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Education

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which includes components similar to the provisions of this bill. Also, the department is planning for the implementation of the Education Reform Act of 2002 in anticipation of its passage. The department does not sponsor the *Parents as Reading Partners Program* identified in the bill for an evaluation. Currently, participation in this program is a local option.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James A. Davenport". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "J".

James A. Davenport, Executive Director